Third-quarter biotech job picture

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The third quarter saw the number of advertised biotech and pharma sector jobs rise slightly in the three job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* (Tables 1 and 2). Compared with the second quarter of 2014 (*Nat. Biotechnol.* **32**, 843, 2014), biotech listings on Monster and LinkedIn grew, whereas Naturejobs listings decreased slightly. Life Technologies led the growth on LinkedIn with 688 listings, up from one in the second quarter.

In new partnerships announced in the third quarter, Novartis and the University of Pennsylvania unveiled a plan to build the Center for Advanced Cellular Therapeutics to investigate new uses for chimeric antigen receptor technology. The center is due to open on the U Penn campus in 2016. Shenzhen, China-based BGI and the University of Birmingham, UK, have partnered to create the Joint Centre for Environmental Omics.

BGI will staff the center with technicians and bioinformaticians, whereas the university will provide senior level scientific personnel. Finally, AbbVie and Google-backed Calico have signed a ten-year, \$1.5-billion deal to discover, develop and commercialize treatments for age-related diseases including neurodegeneration and cancer. The partners will establish a new R&D facility in the San Francisco Bay Area, for which AbbVie will provide scientific and clinical development support.

Amgen disclosed in its second-quarter results a plan to cut 12–15% of its workforce, or 2,400–2,900 employees through 2015. The company plans to close its facilities in Washington state and Colorado. Table 3 shows other selected downsizings within the life-sciences industry.

Table 1 Who's hiring? Advertised openings at the 25 largest biotech companies

Company ^a	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings ^b		
		Monster	LinkedIn	Naturejobs
Monsanto	21,500	2	0	0
Amgen	18,000	65	343	0
CSL	10,515	82	467	0
Life Technologies	10,000	0	688	0
PerkinElmer	7,500	119	36	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	7,380	9	11	0
bioMérieux	7,285	15	19	0
WuXi PharmaTech	6,817	12	12	0
Biocon	6,253	0	0	0
Biogen Idec	5,950	0	221	0
Novozymes	5,865	7	7	0
IDEXX Laboratories	5,400	16	75	0
Shire	5,367	164	142	0
Gilead Sciences	5,000	1	329	8
Celgene	4,700	60	138	188
Endo Pharmaceuticals	4,629	0	17	0
Qiagen	3,999	0	97	2
Actelion	2,433	4	2	0
Illumina	2,400	32	38	7
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	2,200	6	117	0
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	1,950	32	234	2
Biotest Pharmaceuticals	1,727	0	1	0
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	1,373	0	84	0
Albany Molecular Research	1,329	0	49	0
CK Life Sciences	1,278	0	0	0
Total		1,497	2,249	207

^aAs defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (**31**, 697–703; 2013).
^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, October 13, 2014. Jobs may overlap.

Table 2 Advertised job openings at the ten largest pharma companies

Company ^a	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings ^b		
		Monster	LinkedIn	Naturejobs
Novartis	127,724	37	0	2
Johnson & Johnson	126,600	1,000+	75	3
Sanofi	111,974	0	650	4
GlaxoSmithKline	99,488	4	5	2
Pfizer	91,500	0	82	23
Abbott Laboratories	91,000	1	114	13
Merck & Co.	83,000	2	200	3
Roche	82,089	1	889	5
Bayer HealthCare	55,300	4	3	3
AstraZeneca	51,700	108	39	23
Total		1,157	2,057	81

^aData obtained from *FiercePharma*. ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, October 13, 2014. Jobs may overlap.

Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings

Company	Number of employees cut	Details
Allergan	~1,500	Will reduce headcount by 13% to about 10,200, including about 700 R&D positions and about 250 positions from sales.
Boehringer Ingelheim	NA	Will restructure to reduce costs by 15% in Germany, including reallocating headcount or not replacing vacant positions.
Exelixis	160	Will reduce headcount by 70% to about 70 based on disappointing phase 3 data for Cometriq, its spectrum-selective kinase inhibitor of VEGF receptor 2 and c-Met receptor tyrosine kinase.
Novo Nordisk	200	Discontinuing R&D within inflammatory disorders and expanding R&D in diabetes and obesity. Will affect about 400 employees, of which about half will be offered other positions.
Orexo	15	Will restructure operations; its Uppsala, Sweden, facilities will focus on new product development and maintenance, and all manufacturing for Zubsolv (buprenorphine/naloxone) will be done by its US partners.
PharmAthene	11	Reduced R&D headcount by 33% in response to an April notice from the US Dept. of Health & Human Services' Biomedical Advanced Research & Development Authority that the agency was partially terminating its SparVax anthrax vaccine contract.

Source: *BioCentury*. NA, not available

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